

Opinion of the Court.

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his own request. But in other connections it conveys the notion of a movement beginning with the superior and more or less adverse to the object, as, for instance, when we speak of discharging a servant. Usually it is a slightly discrediting verb. If it is taken in its ordinary meaning here, the exception in case of a discharge by way of punishment raises no difficulty, because a discharge on resignation is not within the meaning of the principal clause. The course of the departments has amounted to no more than interpreting the word in this exact sense.

Enlisted men are given similar allowances by § 1290 and the earlier statutes cited. By the act of June 7, 1900, c. 860, 31 Stat. 708, when the Secretary of War, in the exercise of his discretion, has directed the discharge "of any enlisted men . . . and the orders . . . stated that such enlisted men were entitled to travel pay," such order is to be sufficient authority for payment of the allowances under § 1290. This recognizes that it is usual to state in the order whether the soldier is entitled to travel pay or not, and seems to accept existing practices as they are. It has no effect upon the cases before us further than as another slight indication of the understanding in the service. But taking everything into account we are not prepared to overturn the long established understanding of the departments charged with the execution of the law.

Judgment reversed.

UNITED STATES *v.* BARNETT.

No. 235. Argued with No. 236, *ante*, p. 471, and by the same counsel.

MR. JUSTICE HOLMES: This is the case of an enlisted man who makes a claim similar to the above, under Rev. Stat. § 1290, as amended. He was discharged on his own application, and the order of discharge stated that he was not entitled to travel pay. The foregoing reasoning also governs this case.

Judgment reversed.